

COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 7 September 2022.

PRESENT: Councillors J Hobson, A Bell (Vice-Chair), R Arundale, I Blades, D Coupe, C Dodds, T Furness, TA Grainge, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, C Hobson, B Hubbard, N Hussain, D Jones, L Lewis, L Mason, D McCabe, M Nugent, J Platt, E Polano, A Preston (The Mayor), J Rathmell, D Rooney, J Rostron, R Sands, M Saunders, M Smiles, M Storey, P Storey, Z Uddin, J Walker, S Walker and G Wilson

OFFICERS: S Bonner, C Breheny, S Butcher, B Carr, G Field, R Horniman, A Hoy, A Humble, D Johnson, A Pain, T Parkinson and A Perriman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors D Branson, C Cooke, B Cooper, D Davison, S Dean, N Gascoigne, A High, S Hill, T Mawston, C McIntyre, J McTigue, G Purvis, J Thompson and C Wright

22/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Coupe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 15 – Community Governance Review – Final recommendations for approval – as Councillor for Stainton and Thornton Ward

Councillor Smiles declared a personal prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 15 – Community Governance Review – Final recommendations for approval – as Ward and Parish Councillor for Nunthorpe Ward

22/34 MINUTES - COUNCIL - 6 JULY 2022

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 July 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

22/35 ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no announcements or communications for this meeting.

22/36 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).

The Chair advised that a question from a member of the public had been received, details of which was included at Agenda Item 5.

As the member of the public was unable to attend the meeting, he had requested that the Chair read the question out on his behalf. The Chair invited the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety to respond to the question.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety advised that the council worked very closely with a range of partners and stakeholders both internal and external to the council to ensure support was put in place to help individuals.

Where identified individuals continued to cause harassment, alarm and distress to the public and business owners, robust enforcement action was taken by Middlesbrough Council. This included Civil Injunctions, criminal behaviour orders and the use of other available tools and powers from the Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The council had a focused multi agency operation in the town centre which was led by Middlesbrough Council's Neighbourhood Safety Team. This had been in place since June 2022 and was called Operation Banton.

Operation Banton tackled people who caused issues for visitors and businesses within the town centre. This also included working with partners to reduce the level of begging in the

town centre. Recorded anti-social behaviour was at the lowest levels in three years.

22/37

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

The Mayor stated that begging was still a real problem in the town. He stated that many people thought that when they saw beggars that they were begging for food or were homeless. He stated that unfortunately, in Middlesbrough, this was not the case, as most beggars were begging for money to buy drugs. He urged the public not to give money to beggars. If people wanted to assist the less fortunate, then it would be of more benefit to donate to charities that provided support to addicts to assist with their recovery.

The Mayor referred to the fact that the country had a new Prime Minister. He stated that the feedback from the government was that there would be some assistance forthcoming to help with the challenges to be faced from the rising cost of living.

The Mayor commented that in order to combat the rising energy costs, the government would have to borrow around £1b. They might have to bail out businesses as otherwise jobs would be lost, and shopping precincts could disappear.

Councils were in an extraordinarily frightening position and emergency plans might need to be put in place. Some Councils could go bust or would lose vital services. Councils could be in the position where they would have to choose which services to retain because of a lack of funding. The Council needed to lobby the government for more funding to support essential services such as funding children in care and fixing potholes.

The Mayor acknowledged that members appeared to be keen to work together for the benefit of the town.

Councillor M Storey stated that the Council needed to work together on a cross party working group to develop a strategic approach to the cost-of-living crisis. The decision to freeze energy prices was a good decision, however the freeze on energy prices should include businesses and councils. The Prime Minister had not indicated how the price freeze would be funded. Councillor Storey indicated, that in his view, a windfall tax on the oil and gas companies was needed.

Councillor Storey pointed out that tax cuts did not lead to growth. There would be massive savings required and the cost-of-living crisis was a bigger crisis than Covid. People were likely to die because of issues caused by the cost-of-living crisis.

Councillor Storey highlighted that any decision by the government to cut public sector funding would be a political choice. People needed to lobby Simon Clarke MP to urge him to ensure that this Council received the necessary funding for services. The previous cuts had impacted on staff, so if the Council could employ more staff, services would improve.

22/38

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

The Chair invited Members to raise items for general discussion arising from the Information Booklet of Executive Member reports which detailed activities carried out within the respective Executive Member portfolios (Section 1), Executive decisions taken (Section 2) or to be taken where known, prior to and following the meeting (Sections 3 and 4).

Questions on Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Children's Services report

Councillor Hellaoui regarding Government-funded Holiday Activity Fund and Feast of Fun Groups.

Councillor Hellaoui referred to the two groups mentioned in the Executive Member report in respect of the Government-funded Holiday Activity Fund and advised that there had been 34 Holiday Activity Groups and 12 Feast of Fun Groups, that had provided food, activities, and trips to over one thousand children. Many of those children had been in receipt of free school meals. Councillor Hellaoui listed all 34 Holiday Activity groups and all 12 Feast of Fun Groups and stated that she wished to thank all those involved.

The Executive Member stated that she had mentioned in her report that there were activity groups operating across the whole of the town. Over £1m had been spent locally on the

provision of free activities and over £200m nationally, which assisted in preventing social isolation and provided food to those children who might not otherwise have received a warm meal. The Executive Member thanked all those involved in organising the Holiday Activity and Feast of Fun Groups.

Councillor Saunders commented that it was pleasing to see the improvement in Children's Services. He stated that on behalf of the MICA group, he would like to give credit to the current Director of Children's Services, the staff, and the Executive Member for Children's Services.

The Executive Member stated that recruitment to the service was still an issue alongside placement of children outside the area, but this was a national problem. The Executive Member advised that it was a whole team effort which included the labour group members that were members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panels.

Questions on Executive Member for Environment report

The Chair advised that as the Executive Member had submitted his apologies for the meeting, the two councillors that had indicated that they would like to ask questions on his executive report could email him direct or ask the questions and they would be forwarded to the Executive Member for a written response.

Councillor Furness stated that the provision of nutritious meals was good, but it would be tough going forward. He stated that he was a Governor at Newham Bridge School and they had noticed an increase in parents in receipt of Universal Credit. The school was looking to bridge the gap by providing free breakfast clubs. He asked whether the Council could look to fund free meals across all schools.

The mayor advised that not only people on benefits, but some people who were in work, struggled to pay for school meals. The Council would be unable to fund free meals for all schools as funding was the responsibility of schools and the government. The mayor advised that if people who did not currently qualify for school meals were struggling then they should contact the Council. The mayor stated that he was happy for Councillor Furness to contact him and the Executive Member to discuss the issue.

Councillor Arundale stated that he would like to ask his questions and would be happy to receive a written response.

Councillor Arundale stated that his questions were as follows:

1. Are there any proposed sites for tree planting sites around the Sandy Flatts area?
2. As the Council is responsible for several meadows; are all of them harvested as well as cut?

Questions on Executive Member for Finance and Governance report

Councillor Rooney referred to the Head of Resident & Business Support and the Welfare Benefits Team and congratulated them on their work in relation to the Welfare Strategy.

Councillor Rooney referred to paragraph 1.4. of the Executive Member report regarding the comment that the funding for Children's Services was "archaic". Councillor Rooney queried regarding what the Executive Member intended to do regarding Children's Services Funding to mitigate the issue.

Councillor Rooney queried whether there was a Council-wide strategy that would cut across all services to deal with the impact of the current cost of living. The Councillor also queried regarding what the Council intended to do about the people who were working who fell through the gaps in terms of funding because they were not entitled to access certain children's services.

The Executive Member advised that in terms of a Council-wide strategy, the Welfare Strategy brought lots of vulnerable people together, similar to a one stop shop. However, in terms of financial strategy, work was in progress to refresh the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

The cost-of-living crisis would increase cost drivers for adult social care and children's services. The two main cost drivers were the over reliance on agency staff and the commercial nature of children placements. One of the things that the Council could consider was setting up its own centres.

The Executive Member highlighted that in terms of funding for children's services, the Council received a set amount, so even if the demand for children's services increased, the Council would not receive any additional funding to deal with the increased demand on services. Some of the issues facing children's services would take one to two years to improve.

Councillor Rostron referred to the role of Section 151 officer and the fact that the Council had appointed to the role on a temporary, part-time basis. Councillor Rostron queried whether employing a Section 151 officer on a temporary/part-time basis was viable.

The Executive Member advised that when the job was advertised, because of the criteria required to carry out the role, no applications had been received. The person who was currently carrying out the role was hardworking and often worked out of hours. The aim however was to employ a full time Section 151 officer.

Councillor Furness queried whether the figure of £9m was correct in terms of the budget gap and what percentage it represented in terms of the Council's budget shortfall.

The Executive Member advised that the £9m represented the current years overspend. The service areas were required to produce a recovery plan to meet the shortfall. The projected budget gap for the following year was changing all the time, but a more accurate prediction could be available in December.

Questions on Executive Member for Neighbourhood Safety report

Councillor Higgins referred to parking issues outside schools in the Nunthorpe and Marton Wards and queried whether patrols were there was a rota in place to ensure that patrols could be carried out outside other schools in the town. Councillor Higgins stated that in a school in her ward, some disabled children were unable to get off their bus due to people parking inappropriately.

The Executive Member advised that walking to school was being actively encouraged in schools which was better for children's health and allowed them to converse with parents on the way to school.

The Street Wardens were patrolling in areas where there were known issues, but Councillors should contact the one-stop shop to advise where there were issues with inappropriate parking outside schools. The Street Wardens were patrolling in other wards in the town.

Councillor Blades advised that it was good to see that the use of CCTV and collaborative working had resulted in convictions and custodial sentences. The Executive Member had advised at the last meeting of the Council, that he would provide a list showing the number of CCTV cameras by ward, however the list had not been received.

The Executive Member advised that he had sent the list to Councillor Higgins, but he would circulate the most up to date list showing the number of CCTV cameras by ward, as requested.

Questions on Executive Member for Regeneration report

Councillor J Walker referred to paragraph 4.1 of the Executive Member report regarding the fact that bids had been submitted to the Government to seek funding for a number of projects affecting derelict buildings through the Levelling Up Fund. Councillor Walker queried regarding which derelict buildings were included and the level of funding requested. Paragraph 4.2 of the report stated that the bids submitted by the Council, focussed on providing the resources to bring a number of town centre buildings back into use, with a decision being expected by the autumn. Councillor Walker queried whether the bids referred to in paragraph 4.2 were the same bids mentioned in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Councillor J Walker stated that she was pleased to see one of the units in the Cleveland Centre re-opening as a clothing shop. Councillor Walker queried with regard to how much the

Cleveland Centre was costing to maintain in terms of rent, cleaning, security, and insurance and whether the Council was receiving rent from the businesses in the Cleveland Centre or any other Council owned shopping centres.

Councillor Walker stated that she would like this information by the next Council meeting, and she suggested that they might be included in the Executive Member's next report.

Councillor Walker also commented that it was good to see that the town had the highest business start-up, but she queried regarding how many of the businesses were still running after one year.

The Executive Member advised that he did not have the exact figures for funding requested from the Levelling Up Fund to bring derelict buildings back into use, but he would provide Councillor Walker with them in due course. The funding could potentially be used on bringing back into use, the House of Fraser store, and the former Crown Bingo premises.

Councillor J Walker advised that as her questions were quite long, she would forward a copy to the Executive Member for a written response.

Councillor Hellaoui noted that there had been an increase in small businesses in 2022, which might be expected because of the covid pandemic. Councillor Hellaoui queried regarding ongoing support and monitoring available to small businesses and how many new small businesses had folded in the same period. The councillor also queried with regard to how many new jobs had been created as a result of the new business start-ups, how many had been lost and what contribution to the town budget the new businesses had made.

The Executive Member advised that a report produced by one of the largest lenders to small business had identified that the number of small businesses registered in Middlesbrough in the first part of 2022, equated to 610 per 100,000 people. This represented a 43% increase for the same period in 2021 and a 94% increase for the same period in 2019. This equated to 5 new business start-ups per day and represented the highest number of new business start-ups in the North-East.

The Executive Member advised that he did not currently have the figures requested for the number of small businesses that had closed and the number of new jobs that had been created, but he would forward them to Councillor Hellaoui in due course.

Councillor Hellaoui advised that she forward a copy of her questions to the Executive Member following the meeting.

Questions on Executive Member for Young Adults and Democratic Engagement report

Councillor Rooney commented that the level of take up for postal voting was positive, but she queried whether a copy of the postal vote application form and how to register for a postal vote could be included in the Love Middlesbrough magazine. Councillor Rooney also queried about how many first-time registrations had occurred and figures in respect of the postal vote returns.

The Executive Member advised that he fully accepted the comments from Councillor Rooney, and he acknowledged that the more ways used to promote postal voting the more advantageous it would be.

Councillor Hellaoui queried regarding engagement with young people on voting and democracy.

Councillor Hellaoui queried with regard to what materials would be used to encourage and motivate young people to become engaged, what curriculum strategies teaching materials and lessons plans would be used and how much time in the school timetable would be allocated to these lessons. In addition, how would the Executive Member be able to ensure that there was no political bias in the material that was being delivered to young people. The councillor also queried whether it would be possible to collect any data in respect of whether there was an increase in young people voting, following the initiative to increase engagement of young people in the democratic process.

The Executive Member advised that it may be difficult to collate the data requested by Councillor Hellaoui. In terms of engaging with young people, the aim was to make the process as interactive as possible. The Youth Council would be urged to engage with young people. The Executive Member advised that in terms of political bias that councillors needed to step out of their political realms when engaging with young people.

Councillor Furness referred to the number of documents requested by voters in respect of the requests for Voter ID. cards. Councillor Furness queried whether the Council was going to receive further funding to assist with the requests.

The Executive Member advised that the Council had not received any information in relation to potential funding available at this time, but he would update the Council once the information became available.

22/39 **REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the current position regarding progress made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and each of the individual Scrutiny Panels.

ORDERED that the report be noted.

22/40 **FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY**

The Director of Finance and the Executive Member for Finance and Governance submitted a report, in respect of the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2022/23.

Following the adoption of a Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy in 2021/22 as approved by Council on 20 October 2021, and the publication of further legislation and guidance for a further 3-year extension from 1 April 2022, the report proposed a Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2022/23 for approval by Council.

The report detailed the proposed individual projects, totalling approximately £2.7m, which were planned to be funded from the flexible use of capital receipts in 2022/23 in accordance with the Statutory Guidance.

Full Council was required under the Statutory Guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts to approve the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

This was recommended to enable the effective management of finances, in line with the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance, the Scheme of Delegation, and agreed corporate financial regulations. The approach set out within the report would help the Council maximise the use of financial resources available, while ensuring that there was a minimum impact on the level of service delivered to the public or on the Council Tax payer.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the Council:

- approves the proposed Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2022/23.

22/41 **REVIEW OF THE EMERGING LOCAL PLAN**

The Director of Regeneration and the Executive Member for Regeneration submitted a report for Council's consideration in respect of a Review of the Emerging Local Plan.

The Executive Member for Regeneration stated that in July 2019, the Council made a decision not to submit the Local Plan to Government for Independent Examination.

The main reasons for this were:

- a change in priorities as a consequence of the local elections, such as an increased emphasis on urban living;

- to allow the evidence base to be updated; and
- to consider revisions to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

Since then, a significant amount of work had been undertaken in reviewing the evidence base, with up-to-date information now in place on the town centres, the local economy, and housing. The Council had also adopted a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy that would put green and blue infrastructure at the heart of the Local Plan.

However, it had become apparent that the Council could no longer simply continue to progress where they left off, for a number of reasons:

- Significant changes to local and national policies since work on the Local Plan began, including the Green Strategy and a stronger emphasis on design quality;
- New legislation that placed additional requirements on the Council;
- Different strategic priorities than those that the emerging Local Plan had been seeking to deliver;
- Some of the baseline information upon which the emerging plan had been based was now out-of-date and needed updating; and
- The impacts of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic needed to be taken into account.

It was therefore recommended that the Council officially cease work on the emerging Local Plan and start work on a new Local Plan.

The Executive Member for Regeneration advised that a new Local Development Scheme, which set out the timetable for preparing the Local Plan, had also been prepared. The first stage in the new Local Plan would be the Scoping Report which would be brought before Council in October.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the Council:

1. In order to positively respond to Covid-19, and to help deliver a greener borough through good design and high-quality development, approves the formal withdrawal of the emerging Local Plan; and
2. Approves the Local Development Scheme 2022 – 2024;
3. Delegates authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration, to make future amendments to the Local Development Scheme.

22/42 **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

22/43 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

There were no Members Questions submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

22/44 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Consideration was given to Motion No. 154, moved by Councillor M Storey and seconded by Councillor Rostron of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

Public Censure

A Standards Committee Meeting held on 11 May 2022 concluded that Councillor J McTigue, acting in her capacity as a member of Middlesbrough Borough Council ('the Council'), had breached items 3.2, 3.5 and 3.12 of the Members Code of Conduct on social media posts on 28 November 2019 and on 23 December 2020, in that she did not respect others, conducted herself in a manner which was likely to bring the authority, office, or the Member into disrepute and did not use social media responsibly.

Following consideration of the Standards complaint, the Standards Committee in consultation with the Independent Person, ordered that a number of sanctions be imposed, one of which included that Councillor McTigue to be subject of a motion of public censure at the full Council meeting.

In accordance with the Standards Committee's resolution, the matter of a motion of censure is now placed before Council in respect of Councillor McTigue's conduct in respect of the matters detailed by the Investigating Officer in the report to the Standards Committee meeting held on 11 May 2022.

Councillor M Storey advised that the motion had been due to be considered by the Council meeting on 6 July however, Councillor Saunders, the acting Chair of the Standards Committee at the time the resolution was passed, had refused to bring the motion to Council, because he had concerns regarding the fact that the complaint had been processed, given the six months deadline for submission of complaints, contained in the procedure rules. In Councillor Saunders view, the complaint was not submitted within the required six months deadline. Councillor Storey advised that Councillor Saunders believed that on the above technicality, Councillor McTigue should not be censured. The Standards Committee had however unanimously agreed that Councillor McTigue had breached the Members' Code of Conduct and as a consequence, the motion to Council to censure Councillor McTigue had been agreed.

The matter was considered again at an informal meeting of the Standards Committee, following advice from legal services, where a decision was made that Councillor M Storey and Councillor Rostron should propose the censure motion at the Council meeting scheduled for 7 September 2022.

Councillor Storey stated that Councillor McTigue had posted unacceptable information about an officer on social media. The motion to censure would send a clear message to members with regard to how they should behave towards officers.

It was essential that members abided by the Members Code of Conduct and the Nolan principles, and when members failed to abide by these rules, then action should be taken.

The Chair advised that as Councillor McTigue was unable to attend the meeting, she had requested that he read a statement out prepared by the councillor, setting out the reasons, why in her view, she should not be censured. The Chair read the statement out to the meeting, as requested by Councillor McTigue.

Councillor Saunders advised that at the Standards Committee held on 11 May, where Councillor Mc Tigue was adjudged to have broken the Code of Conduct, he was acting as the Chair of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Saunders stated that he had advised the Monitoring Officer of his concerns regarding the 6 months cut off deadline for submission of Standards complaints. The six months rule for submission of complaints was contained in the procedure rules. The procedure rules were subsequently removed from the internet as they were misleading. Councillor Saunders stated that in his view, this was a governance failing and, as a consequence, he stated that he was unable to support the motion for censure.

Councillor Hubbard stated that he concurred with the comments of Councillor Saunders. The procedure rules had been submitted to the Constitution and Members Development Committee in April 2018 and had been subsequently confirmed by full Council, on 16 May 2018. He stated the issue was not about a technicality, it was regarding policies and procedures and whether Council officers should be allowed to change them.

Councillor M Storey pointed out that officers, at both meetings, had provided clear guidance, to the Chair of the Standards Committee, that there was no time restriction for hearing the complaint. There was an archaic document on the website but that was taken down. Councillor Storey advised that both labour and independent councillors were present at the meeting, where the committee decided to recommend that Councillor McTigue be censured.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that the Council delegated functions to various committees, and the authority to deal with Standards functions had been delegated by Council

to the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee was overseeing the governance arrangements in respect of complaints about breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct, and by doing so, the committee was making decisions on behalf of full Council. The Standards Committee were unanimous in their decision that there had been a breach of the Members Code of Conduct.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer pointed out that the members of the Standards Committee were provided with advice before and after the committee meeting.

There was an opportunity for the councillor subject to censure, to challenge the decision of the Standards Committee and the councillor was at liberty to do that.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer stated that members might want to consider whether they were undermining the authority of the Standards Committee if they chose not to consider the motion submitted through the Standards Committee. The Deputy Monitoring Officer reminded members that they were voting on a motion of the Standards Committee to censure Councillor McTigue.

Councillor Rathmell stated that he acknowledged the view and the opinion of the legal officers. He stated that the issue was not about undermining the Standards Committee, because paragraph 51 of the Council Procedure Rules stated "The Council shall consider recommendations made to it by Committees on matters falling within the Committee's terms of reference. The recommendation shall be moved by the Chair of that Committee". A seconder to the motion is not required.

Councillor Rathmell stated that any motion to censure the councillor should have been submitted by the Chair of the Standards Committee, in accordance with paragraph 51 of the Council Procedure Rules.

Councillor Rathmell stated that Councillor McTigue had sought clarification on the Standards complaints guidance and with regard to whether there was any provision within the Localism Act with regard to this issue however the guidance had been removed from the Council website because it was archaic and there was no response received with regard to the query about the Localism Act.

For the above reasons, Councillor Rathmell stated that it was not appropriate to pass the motion of censure in respect of Councillor McTigue.

Councillor Rathmell proposed a motion under paragraph 93 (c) of the Council Procedure Rules. The motion to proceed to the next business was seconded by Councillor Hubbard.

Councillor Rooney requested that a recorded vote be held.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that in order for a recorded vote to be held, a vote would need to be carried out. If 12 councillors indicated that they wished to have a recorded vote, then a recorded vote would be held.

As more than 12 councillors indicated that they wished to have a recorded vote, the Deputy Monitoring Officer conducted a recorded vote on whether to proceed to the next business.

The outcome of the recorded vote to proceed to next business was as follows:

FOR: Mayor – A Preston, Councillors A Bell, C Hobson, J Hobson, B Hubbard, D Jones, L Mason, D McCabe, M Nugent, J Platt, E Polano, J Rathmell, R Sands, M Saunders, G Wilson

AGAINST: Councillors R Arundale, I Blades, T Furness, A Hellaoui, T Higgins, N Hussain, L Lewis, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Storey, P Storey, Z Uddin, J Walker

ABSTAIN: Councillors D Coupe, C Dodds, T Grainge, M Smiles, S Walker

Following the outcome of the recorded vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the Council proceed to the next item on the agenda.

22/45 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

There were no "Notice of Urgent Motions" submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

22/46 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL**

The Chief Executive presented the report in respect of the Community Governance Review - Final recommendations for approval.

Councillor Rathmell stated that he agreed with the recommendations contained in the report, to reduce the number of Nunthorpe Parish Councillors from 9 to 7.

Councillor Smiles stated that she would like to recommend an amendment to the report to reduce the number of Nunthorpe Parish Councillors from 11 to 9.

Councillor Smiles stated that there were not many applicants for the role of Parish Councillor however the workload had increased because there were a number of very important issues affecting Nunthorpe at the current time including the Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Plan, the application for the building of the new community centre and many other planning issues associated with Nunthorpe. The current demographic of Parish Councillors tended to be older people and Councillor Smiles stated that it would be good to encourage some younger people to take up the role, to provide resilience when other Parish Councillors were unable to fulfil their role.

The role of a Parish Councillor was a voluntary unpaid role so there would be no cost to the Council if the number of Parish Councillors was reduced to 9.

The Chief Executive clarified that, following the outcome of the consultation process, the recommendation in respect of the Nunthorpe Parish Council was that the number of Nunthorpe Parish Councillors be reduced to 7.

Councillor Smiles stated that thirty people responding to the consultation did not equate to a good response.

Councillor Coupe stated that he was happy with the recommendations in respect of the number of Stainton and Thornton Parish Councillors being retained at 7. He queried whether the number could be revisited if new properties at Hemlington Grange were moved into the boundary.

Councillor Rathmell pointed out that 30 people had responded to say that the number of Parish Councillors should be reduced to 7. Councillor Smiles advised that all current Parish Councillors were in favour of reducing the number of Parish Councillors to 9.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that members were being asked to vote on the recommendations arrived at following the outcome of the consultation process.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

- I. That the Stainton and Thornton Parish Council boundary is retained and unaltered.
- II. That the number of Parish Councillors to be elected for Stainton & Thornton Parish Council remains at 7.
- III. That Nunthorpe Parish Council is retained with the following proposed changes:
 - a. the Parish Council boundary for Nunthorpe Parish Council is extended to be co terminus with the Nunthorpe electoral ward boundary i.e., to include 1-29

Yew Tree Grove, TS7 8QX, 1-16 Milan Grove, TS7 0DQ

- b. That the Council seeks permission from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to amend Principal Council electoral ward boundaries for Nunthorpe ward be amended to include 12-16 Milan Grove and the Brethren's area.
 - c. That the number of Nunthorpe Parish Councillors be reduced to 7
- IV. That the Council agree to a Reorganisation Order being submitted and that all changes above will take effect from the next local elections that take place on 4 May 2023.
- V. That a further detailed review of community councils by the Stronger Communities Team be undertaken, to consider how we engage with community groups and assess what support is required/available.